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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
 SUBJECT Economic - Industry, production
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Prague
 DATE PUBLISHED 27 Feb 1951
 LANGUAGE Czech

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 21 May 1951

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Lidove Noviny.

CRITICIZES CZECHOSLOVAK INDUSTRY

Jaromir Dolansky, chairman of the State Planning Office, presented an exhaustive report on 22 February 1951, at the meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee. Dr Dolansky pointed to weaknesses, the correction of which ought to increase industrial production under the Five-Year Plan.

One of the main weaknesses of industry, according to the spokesman, was the failure to make full use of the three-shift system; particularly in heavy industry, where most new employees were assigned to the first shift. In the heavy-machine-tool industry, by the third quarter of 1950, a total of 15,192 new workers had been hired; of these 13,409 were employed on the first shift, 1,615 on the second, and only 168 on the third shift. In this same branch of industry, during the first half of 1950, various machine tools were in use only from 49 to 95 percent of the time. This means that certain heavy machine tools were not even in operation during the entire first shift.

The failure to make greater use of modern technical equipment in mining came in for special criticism. For example, only 60-percent use was made of dredgers at the North-Bohemian Brown-Coal Mines, where surface mining is carried on.

In the metallurgical industry the most effective use is not yet made of hearth space. For producing one ton of raw steel, 1.2 square meters of hearth space are needed, compared with the Soviet Union where only 0.9 square meters are necessary.

Inadequate use is made of rolling mills. In the USSR, three shifts are worked and rolls are adjusted and changed on Sundays, ensuring uninterrupted activity; in Czechoslovakia-only two shifts are worked.

The performance of electric power plants is not completely satisfactory either, according to Dr Dolansky. During 1950, independent electric plants generated for 3,590 hours, while factory electric plants produced for only 2,000 hours. In order to satisfy the power needs for 1952 the independent plants would have to work 4,500 hours, the factory installations, 3,500.

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Dr Dolansky also attacked the tendency towards all-purpose production in factories. Some Czechoslovak plants turn out items ranging from heavy machinery to hoes and spades. Others, equipped with heavy cranes, are used more as storerooms than for any other purpose. The correction lies in greater specialization. A notable exception to this is the Skoda Works in Plzen, which will retain its all-purpose production aims and facilities, serving as a sort of laboratory for the heavy-machine-tool industry.

Dr Dolansky indicated that increased use should be made of domestic raw materials. For example, pyrites remained virtually unexploited until 1950, when enough of it was mined to satisfy Czechoslovakia's needs. The manufacture of Zetor tractors is an example of poor management in general. A finer grade of steel is used in producing these than for the production of autos and trucks. Industry also is too liberal in its use of copper, where aluminum or plastic materials could be substituted.

More attention should be devoted to the collection of scrap metal. By careful collection of scrap, Czechoslovakia has been able to salvage the equivalent of the amount of iron ore imported yearly from Sweden.

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